

Paris, 23 may 2022

Subject: My candidacy for the presidency of International cooperative alliance

Dear Sir or Madam

On 20th June, at the General Assembly of the International Co-operative Alliance, a symbolic culmination of the cooperative democracy, elections to the Board will be held.

In order to help bring our democracy to life and to give a new impetus to the Alliance in the service of cooperatives, I am honoured to present my candidacy for the Presidency.

My 30 years of commitment to cooperatives Worldwide has enabled me to understand how important is the diversity of the cooperative movement. I have always put my vitality at the service of the promotion of cooperatives and, with your support, my intention is continue along this path.

I have travelled all over the continents and I am ready to do so again, and again... so that the services of the Alliance consider this diversity as a major asset to build up a better World where everyone has a place.

As a former representative of the sectors on the Alliance Board, I am deeply aware of their expectations. I am also well aware of the needs of the regions. In the interest of cooperatives, both components must enjoy again a scope for action and the world headquarters should be more supportive.

The Alliance was created to be **the voice of cooperatives**. With this inspiring background, working with all of you, I have put my shoulder to the wheel and contributed to this process. I have led the Principles Committee which initiated the ongoing work on the cooperative identity. I have participated in many events to promote the movement: the International Year of Cooperatives, the World Summit in Quebec City, representation at the G20.

Today, we need to meet again together. To this end, as cofounder of the Global Innovation Coop Summit, I invite you to a conference in Paris next September.

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As President of the ICA, I will have **three priorities**:

- to further boost **the cooperative identity**, in particular by involving youth through education;
- to support and anchor **the development of cooperatives** in all countries: the economic and social transition that the World needs will come through them;
- to bolster **the uniqueness of cooperatives** and contribute to building up a better World.

How do I intend to put the Alliance back at the service of its members?

By giving them back a voice. This is essential because times are changing. With the successive crises that the World has gone through, the idea of globalisation has been overturned. However, turning inward on narrow parochialism would be contrary to the cooperative approach. We need to make the most of our diversity. In the face of these dangers, **there is strength in and through unity**.

This union will require the commitment of cooperatives and their representative federations. To remain the voice of the cooperatives, the Alliance must restore their right of expression.

Given the Alliance's strained financial situation, we will regain momentum through commitment. You can count on me to closely knit all the Board members you will elect into a united team at your service.

Vote for my candidacy, to speak up loud and clear again.

Please accept, Sir or Madam, my sincere cooperative greetings.

Jean-Louis Bancel, Chairman of Coop FR

